

Purpose: to inform and motivate toward action

Outline

I. Opening

Human trafficking happens in all 50 states.

It happens here.

According to the National Human Trafficking Hotline, this CRIME has been reported in every single state in the U.S.

Three Monkeys Picture

By staying alert, watching what is happening around you, speaking up and reporting tips, YOU are doing your part to help law enforcement rescue victims, and you might save a life.

We want YOU, our audience, to understand that human trafficking is preventable. Sex trafficking should not be an issue modern society must address, but sadly, it is a battle we must continue fighting.

II. What is human trafficking?

Human trafficking is modern-day slavery and involves the use of force, fraud, or coercion to obtain some type of labor or commercial sex act.

Annually, about 800,000 people –mostly women and children are trafficked across national borders. Because it is an “underground” crime, it is difficult to quantify and identify. Most trafficked victims will not readily volunteer information about their status because of fear, intimidation, abuse, and psychological controls they’ve suffered at the hands of their trafficker-including threats of retribution to themselves and to their family members.

It is estimated that human trafficking generates many billions of dollars of profit per year, second only to drug trafficking as the most profitable form of transnational crime.

Human trafficking is a hidden crime as victims rarely come forward to seek help because of language barriers, fear of the traffickers, and/or fear of law enforcement.

Traffickers look for people who are susceptible for a variety of reasons, including psychological or emotional vulnerability, economic hardship, lack of a social safety net, natural disasters, or political instability. (Immigration)

After drug dealing, human trafficking is tied with the illegal arms industry as the second largest criminal industry in the world today, and it is the fastest growing.

Human trafficking is further broken down into two forms: labor trafficking and sex trafficking.

Sex trafficking: the recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, or obtaining of a person for the purposes of a commercial sex act, in which commercial sex act is induced by force fraud, or coercion or if the victim is forced to perform such an act under the age of 18. Victims of sex trafficking are often found in sweatshops, on the streets or working in establishments that offer commercial sex acts – massage parlors, escort services, adult book stores, modeling studios, and bars/strip clubs.

Labor trafficking: the recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, or obtaining of a person for labor of services, through the use of force, fraud, or coercion for the purpose of subjection to involuntary servitude, peonage, debt bondage or slavery. Victims of labor trafficking are found in sweatshops, commercial agricultural situations (fields, processing plants), domestic situations (maids and nannies), construction sites, restaurants and custodial work.

While all human trafficking involves exploitation, not all forms of labor or sexual exploitation are considered human trafficking.

Examples:

Force: rape, beatings, and confinement of victims. Force is often used in the early stages of victimization known as “seasoning process”, which is used to break the victim’s resistance to make them easier to control.

Fraud: false offers that induce people into trafficking situations. For example women and children will reply to advertisements promising jobs as waitresses, maids and dancers in other countries and are then trafficked for purposes of prostitution once they arrive at their destination.

Coercion: threats of serious harm to, or physical restraint of, any person; any scheme, plan or pattern intended to cause the person to believe that failure to perform an act would result in serious harm to or physical restraint against any person; or the abuse or threatened abuse of the legal process.

Victims are often subjected to debt bondage, usually in the context of paying off transportation fees into the destination countries. They are often threatened with injury or death or the safety of the victim’s family back home. Traffickers commonly take away the victims documents and isolate them to make escape more difficult.

III. Stories: WHAT DOES TRAFFICKING LOOK LIKE?

Introductory Words:

Victims do not realize that their deals are often legally unenforceable and, in any event, that it is illegal for traffickers to dictate how they have to pay for their debt. In many cases the victims are often trapped in debt because they have to pay for living expenses in addition to additional travel expenses.

In the case of sex trafficking victims often have to pay for not meeting 'quotas' of service or for 'bad' behavior. Most trafficked victims rarely see the money they are supposedly earning and/or may not know the specific amount of their debt. Even if debt bondage is illegal it is difficult for them to find help because of language, social, and physical barriers that keep them from obtaining assistance.



1. July 23, 2017

SAN ANTONIO — the authorities here discovered eight bodies in a tractor-trailer in a Walmart parking lot early Sunday morning in what they said was a human trafficking crime that underscored the perils facing migrants trying to enter the United States by any means available.

By Sunday afternoon, another person had died at a hospital, according to a spokesman for Immigration and Customs Enforcement. All of the dead were men.

The eight people whose bodies were initially found were believed to have died from heat exposure and asphyxiation, a spokesman for the San Antonio Police Department said.

Federal officials said in a statement on Sunday that 39 people had been in the trailer.

In a statement, Mayor Ron Nirenberg of San Antonio called the episode “tragic,” adding that it “shines a bright light on the plight of immigrants looking for a better life and victims of human trafficking.”

Smuggling migrants in the backs of trucks is a [common form of human smuggling in the region](#), and it has [claimed lives in the past](#).

An expert on border enforcement and migrant deaths called the trucks “mobile ovens.”

“Those things are made out of steel and metal,” the expert, [Néstor P. Rodríguez](#), a professor of sociology at the University of Texas at Austin, said on Sunday. “Yesterday in Austin, it was like 96 degrees at 9:30 in the evening. Even if the cooling system is on in the tractor-trailer, it’s just too hot.”



2. Horrific Human Trafficking Case Unfolding in Detroit

July 2016 DETROIT, MI — The FBI got a tip from local police Thursday that led them to a southwest Detroit home where two teenagers and three suburban women had been held in locked rooms, drugged, and forced into prostitution according to a case unfolding in U.S. District Court.

Richard Jackson, 67, was charged with multiple felonies related to a sex ring after the raid on his home on South Electric Street. Three adult women, two of them 21, the third 31 and all from the Downriver area, were rescued, but the two teens — one 14 and the other thought to be between 12-15 years — are missing after one of the victims helped them escape through a bathroom window, according to media reports.

Detroit police responded to the house on South Electric about 1 p.m. Thursday after getting a 911 call that someone inside had been hit. While there, they talked to a woman who said she was being held against her will and had been forced into prostitution, according to the police report.

“My sister’s in the basement. You’ve got to get to her. **He’s going to kill her,**” the woman told police, according to a report in the Detroit Free Press.

The federal complaint paints a horrifying picture of what they endured, both inside the upstairs room secured with a large padlock and steel gate and outside, where they were forced to “walk the tracks” as prostitutes at Michigan and Livernois Avenues.

3. Local Story

IV. What are some key indicators of human trafficking? This is a first step on a long journey.

Behavior Indicators:

- Does the person appear disconnected from family, friends, community organizations, or houses of worship?
- Has a child stopped attending school?
- Has the person had a sudden or dramatic change in behavior?
- Is a juvenile engaged in commercial sex acts?

- Is the person disoriented or confused, or showing signs of mental or physical abuse?

Physical Indicators

- Does the person have bruises in various stages of healing?
- Is the person fearful, timid, or submissive?
- Does the person show signs of having been denied food, water, sleep, or medical care?
- Is the person often in the company of someone to whom he or she defers? Or someone who seems to be in control of the situation, e.g., where they go or who they talk to?
- Does the person appear to be coached on what to say?

Environmental Indicators

- Is the person living in unsuitable conditions?
- Does the person lack personal possessions and appear not to have a stable living situation?
- Does the person have freedom of movement? Can the person freely leave where they live? Are there unreasonable security measures?

Not all indicators listed above are present in every human trafficking situation, and the presence or absence of any of the indicators is not necessarily proof of human trafficking.

V. What about Legislation?

The [Trafficking Victims Protection Act \(TVPA\) of 2000](#) is the first comprehensive federal law to address trafficking in persons. The law provides a three-pronged approach that includes prevention, protection, and prosecution. The TVPA was reauthorized through the Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act (TVPRA) of [2003](#), [2005](#), [2008](#), and [2013](#). Under U.S. federal law, “severe forms of trafficking in persons” includes both sex trafficking and labor trafficking.

The **Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA) 2000** is intended to prevent human trafficking overseas, increase prosecution of human trafficking in the United States, and protect victims and provide Federal and State assistance to victims to rebuild their lives in the U.S. Victims who are not citizens can receive benefits and services through the TVPA to the same extent as refugees.



3. Michigan's Human Trafficking Law

2014, Governor Snyder signed a package of legislation which was inspired by a 2013 report by the Michigan Commission on Human Trafficking. It makes human trafficking punishable by imprisonment for life and permanently creates the state Human Trafficking Commission within the Attorney General's Office. There are two types of bills in this legislation: bills strengthening punishments for human traffickers and bills providing support for victims. The bills were inspired partially by the Flores' story.

Theresa Flores was just 15 years old, white, all-American, Catholic, and a virgin when she was trafficked by a fellow classmate. For two years she was blackmailed into sexual slavery from her suburban Detroit home and only saved when her father's job moved her family to a different state. This is the unseen reality of human trafficking in America, and according to the FBI, 100,000 kids are being trafficked in this country right now. (The obvious question is: Was she the only one?)

In November of 2014, the Michigan legislature passed 21 bills to help protect victims and prosecute offenders of Human Trafficking. These were all signed into law by Governor Snyder. "Theresa Flores's Law" which lengthens the criminal statute of limitations for offenses of child sex trafficking or commercial sexual exploitation of children.

Theresa started "Save our Adolescents from Prostitution" (S.O.A.P.) a group that uses hotel bars of soap to wrap a message of both warning and help to potential victims. Her group contacts owner/managers of hotels in cities where large groups congregate and gets permission from them to use the specially wrapped bars of soap. These owner/managers also agree to work with the local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies to help stop trafficking.

2017 Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder has signed legislation that allows more victims of human trafficking to have their criminal records dismissed.

Snyder signed a bill that removes the restriction that a victim is only eligible for deferral or dismissal of criminal charges if they had no prior convictions. The bill was sponsored by Republican state Rep. Bronna Kahle of Adrian and she says it will help lead victims to rebuild better lives. Snyder says Michigan needs to do everything it can to assist victims of human trafficking.

Victims previously weren't eligible for dismissal or deferral of charges if they had previous prostitution-related charges on their record.

STATES provide information about their particular anti-human trafficking legislation.

“The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing.”
Edmund Burke

VI. Myths and Misconceptions (Attached Sheet)

VII. Who are the traffickers?

There is no one consistent face of a trafficker. Traffickers include a wide range of criminal operators: including individual pimps (men and women), small families or businesses, loose-knit decentralized criminal networks, international organizational criminal syndicates or gang members.

Traffickers advertise the availability of commercial sex using online escort ads and social media sites, such as Backpage.com or craigslist. Victims might innocently connect with a predator and be unable to “disconnect”. Traffickers prey on the most vulnerable in our society. Many traffickers use “recruiters”, persons closer in age or culture, to befriend the targeted victim.

IN our homes...Most Americans have worn, touched, or consumed a product of slavery at some point, often without knowing it. Products can include ...coffee...chocolate...rice...fresh produce...gold jewelry, or athlete shoes.

Story of Hersey Chocolate (Attached Sheet)

Story of Adidas (Attached Sheet)

VIII. Actions

A. Engage in advocacy and build awareness about the issue and how it can be addressed.

- Continue to become well informed
- Contact legislators

[http://www.legislature.mi.gov/\(S\(ebmho0mdolr0jehjilyqytjv\)\)/mileg.aspx?page=legislators](http://www.legislature.mi.gov/(S(ebmho0mdolr0jehjilyqytjv))/mileg.aspx?page=legislators)

- Provide direct assistance to victims – connect with local coalition and ask about a Safe House in your area and offer support
- Talk to peers, friends, family about the issue
- TraffickCam <https://traffickcam.com/about>

B. Be a voice

- Talk to your children. Especially if you are a man speak to your boys about respecting girls/women. Make sure your children know how they could be at risk.
- Sponsor an event: Dressemer; Tea-Party; Walk to End Human Slavery
- Find your local and state coalition and participate in actions
- Report anything that looks suspicious to local law enforcement or call the national hotline – put this number in your phone directory.

IX. Resources (Attached Sheet)

Organizations:

1. Catholic Legal Immigration Network, Inc. CLINIC, cliniclegal.org 301-565-4800
2. Shared Hope: sharedhope.org
3. U.S. Catholic Sisters Against Human Trafficking sistersagainstrafficking.org
4. Polaris-freedom happens now - 25 types of human trafficking – escort services, travel sales crews, polarisproject.org

Telephone National Trafficking Hotline: 1-888-3737-888

- Help to determine if you have encountered a victim of human trafficking
- Help you coordinate with local social services and organizations
- Help protect and serve victims so there can begin a process of restoring their lives.

Media: Video/YouTube:

Look Beneath the Surface, 13 Minutes, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Sex and Labor Trafficking in the U.S. and Internationally, Prayer Service, Discussion Questions

CHOSEN, protect your child from being CHOSEN, 22 Minutes, Shared Hope 2 Disc- Discussion Questions and Guide along with CHOSEN trailer and CHOSEN Feature Film

The Mask You Live In, 90 Minutes, Virgil Films, Documentary-ultimately illustrates how we, as a society can rise a healthier generation of boys and young men.

Not My Life, 64 Minutes, World Wide Documentary-a film about human trafficking and modern slavery. A story about the way the world is.

Webinar, Peace and Justice Center ipjc@ipjc.org Human Trafficking Webinar Multi-School Workshop for 7th-8th Grade Students

Story Line: Healing Action Network, St. Louis <http://news.stlpublicradio.org/post/new-nonprofit-helps-women-who-have-left-sex-trade-recover#stream/0>

A True Story of Survival <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NqRsrlAISEE>

A Story: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Pr4xnWa1R2M>

The safety of the public as well as the victim is paramount. **Do not attempt to confront a suspected trafficker directly or alert a victim to any suspicions.** It is up to law enforcement to investigate suspected cases of human trafficking.

How many slaves work for you? : slaveryfootprint.org Take the survey.

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